GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:446
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
STEPS TO EXPORT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
SUDHA YADAV;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the Government to export surplus agricultural produce during the last three years;

(b) whether any monitoring is being done to assess the agriculture production likely to be grown in advance so as to prepare grounds for export;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures adopted to educate the farmers on the export potentials of their produces;

(e) the extent to which the target set for export of agricultural products during the Ninth Plan has been achieved, year-wise;

(f) the target set for export of agro products during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(g) the number of applications for export licences pending with the Union Government as on date, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 446 FOR REPLY 20.12.2002 BY SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN AND DR.(SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV REGARDING `STEPS TO EXP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE`

(a) to (g) Government has emphasized the importance of agricultural exports most recently in Exim Policy 2002-07. Most of agricultural products are now allowed to be freely exported. Exports have multifarious beneficial impact on the economy and are undertaken on the basis of factors such as competitiveness, marketing opportunities etc. It is not the case that exports are undertaken only when there is an exportable surplus. Department of Agriculture monitors likely agricultural produce in advance for various purposes of Planning and Policy.

International trade in agricultural commodities depends on various domestic and international factors. Projections of performance are made based on past trends which are in the nature of estimates. Exports of agricultural products is continually reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Government through its agencies. In order to encourage agricultural exports, Government through its agencies implements a variety of schemes aimed at increasing export competitiveness as well as bringing the farmers closer to the market. A recent initiative in this regard is the concept of Agricultural Export Zones. Till date 40 such Zones have been approved.

The agricultural exports (excluding marine, tea, coffee, cotton and castor oil) during the last 3 years are as given below:

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1999-2000	14812.61
2000-2001	16,773.00
2001-2002(P)	18,667.00

(P):Provisional
Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta(DGCI&S)